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Chronological Rhymes
in
Modern History.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chronological Rhymes

— IN —

Modern History

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By S. A. Brown.

REVISED EDITION.

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ERRATA.

On page 17, first line, read *In* instead of Ih.
second line, read *on a* instead of or the.
On page 31 read *1849* instead of 1841.

REVISED EDITION.

PART I.

1893

The prominent, *pivotal* dates of history are to the student what milestones are to the traveller.

Chronological Rhymes
in
Modern History.

Chronology should serve to trace
The jutting rocks of age and race;
A lighthouse prove for every clime
To guide us down the stream of time,
And first the birth of Christ, we state.
The Christain world's great central date.

70

Unable Roman might to quell,
In seventy, Jerusalem fell;
Her temple fair to ruin hurled,
Her children exiled through the world.

306

Three hundred six, we note the date
When Constantine, surnamed "The Great"
The sceptre took, and claimed, we see,
First Christian emperor to be.

451

Four hundred fifty-one, we see
The hosts of Huns in battle flee,
Where Christian might on Chalon's sod
Met Attila, the "Scourge of God."

476

Four seventy-six, serves to recall
The Roman Empire's tottering fall.

622

Six hundred twenty-two, 'tis said,
Mahomet to Medina fled;
From that Hegira, as they state,
The prophet's sons their era date.

732

In seven hundred thirty-two,
The battle-ground of Tours we view,
Where Charles Martel with fiery ken
Drove back the hated Saracen.

768

In seven sixty-eight, the reign
O'er France began of Charlemagne.

827

Eight hundred twenty-seven, we see
In one the Saxon Heptarchy.

1066

One thousand sixty-six, 'tis shown
The Norman mounted England's throne.

1096

One thousand ninety-six was made
By pilgrim band the First Crusade.

1215

In twelve fifteen, at Runnymede,
King John unwillingly agreed
To sign the Magna Charta then,
Which sealed the rights of Englishmen.

1450

In fourteen fifty, Germans claim
Through Gutenburg's wide-honored name,
The great invention of the age,
Which gave the world the printed page.

1453

In fourteen hundred fifty-three,
Constantinople ceased to be
A Roman city, since that day
The Turk has held despotic sway.

1492

In fourteen ninety-two, the brave
Columbus west from Palos went,
And laid o'er the Atlantic wave
The path to a new continent.

1522

In fifteen twenty-two, 'tis found
Magellan sailed the world around,
And claimed to be the pioneer
In proving thus the earth a sphere.

1603

We find in sixteen hundred three,
England and Scotland both agree
Their ancient feud aside to fling,
And James the Stuart crown as king.

1607

In sixteen seven, settlers came
From English soil for Jamestown bent;
In honor of their king, his name
They gave to this first settlement.

1610

In sixteen hundred ten, the tide,
In France, of sorrow filled the land,
When Henry Fourth, her monarch, died,
Slain by the fell assassin's hand.

1620

In sixteen twenty, o'er the waves
The Mayflower neared New England's strand
And Plymouth Rock the honor craves
Of welcoming the Pilgrim band.

1649

In sixteen forty-nine, his fate
Met England's *Charles by regicide.

* Charles I.

1658

In sixteen hundred fifty-eight,
Cromwell, the Lord Protector, died.

1775

In seventeen seventy-five, was won
The opening fight at Lexington,
Which ranked, in seventeen eighty-three,
Our country's name among the free.

1793

In seventeen ninety-three, the king
Louis Sixteenth was guillotined,
While France a bloody offering
From Revolution's harvest gleaned.

1812

In eighteen twelve, History relates
England and the United States,
Fought three long years upon the sea,
Each struggling for supremacy.

1812

In eighteen twelve, Napoleon came
To Moscow, ~~or the~~ on a bloody track,
But soon, with help of frost and flame,
The Russians drove his legions back.

1815

In eighteen fifteen, Napoleon, too,
Defeated, fled from Waterloo,
And rocky St. Helena gave
To him a prison and a grave.

1854

There comes in eighteen fifty-four,
From Crimea the cannon's roar,
Where English Bull and Russian Bear
With France the bloody conflict share.

1857

In eighteen hundred fifty-seven,
The cable's message first was given,
As through the deep Atlantic meeting,
Our country sent to Europe greeting

1858

In eighteen fifty-eight, 'tis known,
Victoria on English throne,
Began upon this date, the name
Empress of India to claim.

1861

In eighteen sixty-one, the strife
Betwixt the North and South began
And threatening sore the Nation's life,
Four weary years its courses ran.

1863

In eighteen hundred sixty-three,
Was signed by Lincoln "The Decree"
Which gave at once "Emancipation"
To every slave throughout the nation.

1864

In eighteen hundred sixty-four,
While civil war the country tore,
To Mexico, by French consent,
Ill-fated Maximilian went,
But died in eighteen sixty-seven,
To treachery a victim given.

1865

In eighteen sixty-five, a wave
Throughout our land of horror went,
And tears and sobs the Nation gave
Lincoln, her martyred president.

1870

In eighteen seventy, we see
Napoleon Third was forced to flee,
And France in that eventful hour
To bow beneath the German power.

1881

In eighteen eighty-one, the wail
Of sorrow rose for Garfield slain,
The nation heard the twice-told tale,
And mourned her martyred dead again.

The Nineteenth Century's closing life
With fresh discovery is rife,
While History bends with listening ear
The Future's coming march to hear,
And wonders what new offering
The Twentieth Century will bring.

PART II.

Presidents.

A. D. 1789-1893

1789

Washington.

In seventeen hundred eighty-nine,
First of the presidential line
Stands Washington, though years increase,
Still "first in war" and "first in peace."

1797

In seventeen hundred and ninety-seven,
The oath of office next was given
To bold John Adams, brave and true,
Whose patriot heart his country knew.

1801

Then comes in eighteen hundred one
The name of Thomas Jefferson,
Author and giver to the nation
Of the immortal "declaration."

1809

We note in eighteen hundred nine,
James Madison the next in line;
True to himself, whate'er his ground,
"State rights" in him a champion found.

1817

In eighteen hundred seventeen
The name of James Monroe is seen;
The "Monroe doctrine" bars invasion,
We tolerate no foreign nation.

1825

We see in eighteen twenty-five
John Quincy Adams next arrive,
Inheriting his father's fire,
The "worthy son of such a sire."

1829

In eighteen hundred twenty-nine
Bluff Andrew Jackson wheels in line,
And for the party watchword toils,
That *"to the victor come the spoils."

*Jackson established the principle of rotation in office.

1837

When next in eighteen thirty-seven
Martin Van Buren's call was given,
Financial panic o'er the land
Spread its dark pall on every hand.

1841

In eighteen hundred forty-one
Came William Henry Harrison,
For one short month the nation's head,
Then sadly laid among the dead.

1841

Vice President John Tyler then
The vacant office filled again,
While "Dorr's rebellion's" futile strife
In fair Rhode Island sprang to life.

1845

In eighteen forty-five, the name
Of James K. Polk the records claim,
While strife began, and blood to flow,
On battle fields of Mexico.

1849

In eighteen hundred forty-nine
The fight was fierce on party line,
Bold Zachary Taylor won the day,
The hero brave of Monterey.

1849

Again the shaft of death was sped,
Again the nation mourned its head,
Then Millard Fillmore placed in power,
While slavery's discord jarred the hour.

1853

In eighteen hundred fifty-three
The name of Franklin Pierce we see;
Japan, in his administration,
Two ports first opened to our nation.

1857

The choice of James Buchanan given
In eighteen hundred fifty-seven,
Recalls the famed "Dred Scott decision,"
When slavery blurred our moral vision.

1861

In eighteen sixty-one, the name
Of Abraham Lincoln next we claim,
He proved the country's guiding star,
Our pilot through the "civil war,"

With loyal heart he sought to bear
The burden of a nation's care,
Then fell by the assassin's hand,
While mourning voices filled the land.

1865

Our "Ship of state" no tide may whelm,
Next Andrew Johnson took the helm,
And saw, in his administration,
Alaska added to the nation.

1869

To guide the peace his valor won
The nation called her warrior son,
And placed in eighteen sixty-nine,
The name of *Grant upon the line.

*Ulysses S. Grant.

1877

The choice in eighteen seventy-seven
To Rutherford B Hayes was given;
While o'er the "South" spread consternation
At yellow fever's dread invasion.

1881

The prize in eighteen eighty-one
By James A. Garfield next was won,
But soon by mad assassin slain,
We mourned our martyred head again

1885

In eighteen eighty-five, the vote
For Grover Cleveland then we note,
And northern heart with Southern blent,
When earthquake shock fair Charleston rent.

1889

Benjamin Harrison in line
Comes next in eighteen eighty-nine,
While labor strike and cholera scare
With threatening murmurs filled the air.

1893

In eighteen ninety-three's campaign
Is Grover Cleveland called again,
While far and wide, on every hand,
The "World's Fair" voices fill the land—

Chicago, in white robe arrayed,
On all the earth has tribute laid,
And wealth of art, and classic lore,
Has piled upon her lake washed shore.

Thus far the presidential scroll
Its records clear to us unroll,
Somewhere, *within the nation's bound,
Our coming leaders will be found,
And Time, with his unerring pen,
Each new inscription trace again.

*The Constitution requires the President to be a "natural born citizen" of the United States.

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